

Mason County Flood May 24 – 25, 2010

On Monday, May 24, moist south-southeast low level flow was in place over west central Texas. A strong upper low tracked from the Four-Corners region to the central Rockies Monday afternoon. Although the main lift from this feature was to the north and northwest of west central Texas, its interaction with a moist and increasingly uncapped airmass allowed scattered showers and thunderstorms to develop across the northwest Hill Country and Edwards Plateau.

Thunderstorms and scattered showers developed the evening of Monday, May 24. In Mason County, thunderstorms produced very heavy rain showers over an area that included both the towns of Mason to Katemcy. From about 4 PM through 11 PM, areas between Mason and Katemcy received five to over seven inches of rain (see Figures 1 through 9). In Mason, Comanche Creek and other drainages quickly filled and flooded low lying areas. A couple of homes along Comanche Creek on Balsam Street were surrounded by water. Water scoured several sections of Balsam Street. Additional low lying areas on the west side of town near the Mason schools were flooded from three to four inches of heavy rain. In Katemcy, heavy rain caused flooding along Katemcy Creek and a tributary to the creek that crosses FM 1222. The eastern half of the watershed to the creeks is rolling granite terrain (see Figures 10 and 11) . The rain quickly ran off the granite and into the creeks, flooding rural roads, bridges and a home. Water overtopped the bridge at FM 1222 (see Figures 12 and 13) and flooded one home on Katemcy Road (See Figure 14). The home owner reported a couple of inches of water in the house. The flood waters travelled north into McCulloch County toward the San Saba River. A county road bridge (Co. Rd 216) in McCulloch County was damaged by the flood waters.

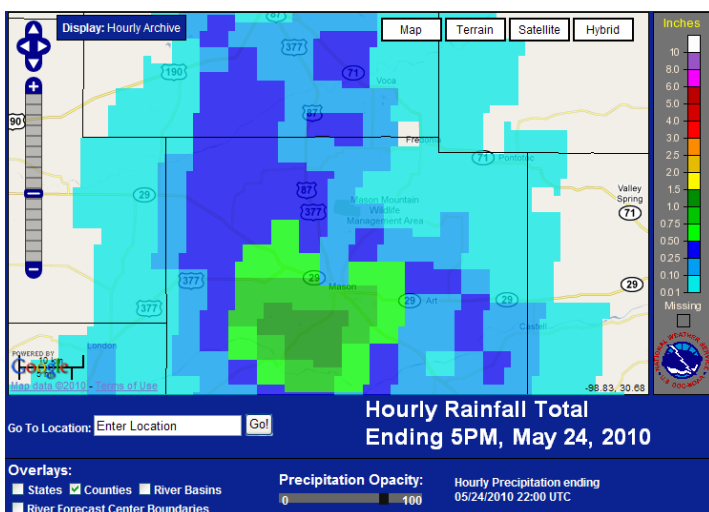


Figure 1. Hourly Rainfall Total, Ending at 5PM, 5/24/10

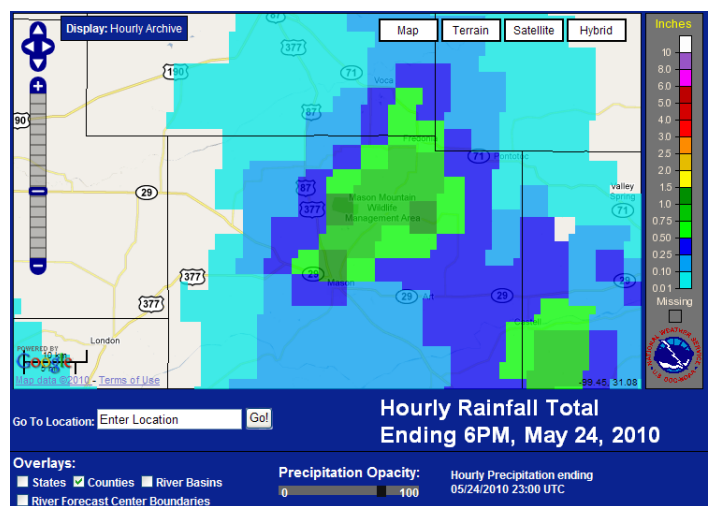


Figure 2. Hourly Rainfall Total, Ending at 6PM, 5/24/10

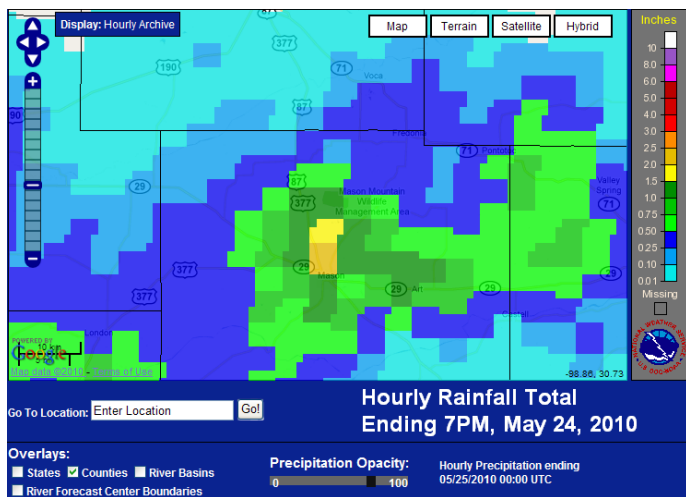


Figure 3. Hourly Rainfall Total, Ending at 7PM, 5/24/10

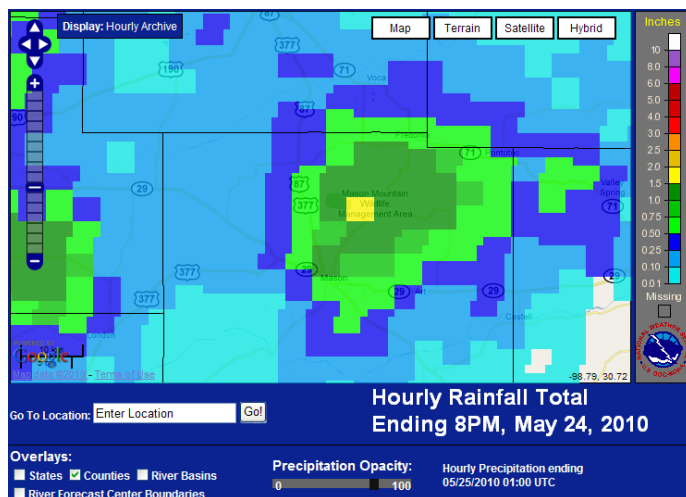


Figure 4. Hourly Rainfall Total, Ending at 8PM, 5/24/10

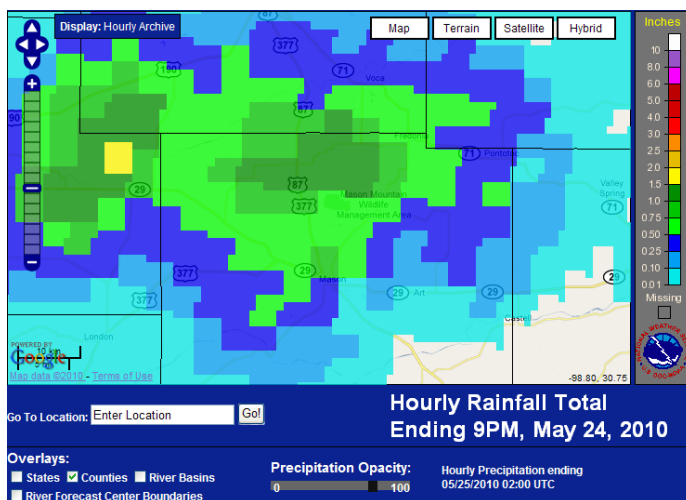


Figure 5. Hourly Rainfall Total, Ending at 9PM, 5/24/10

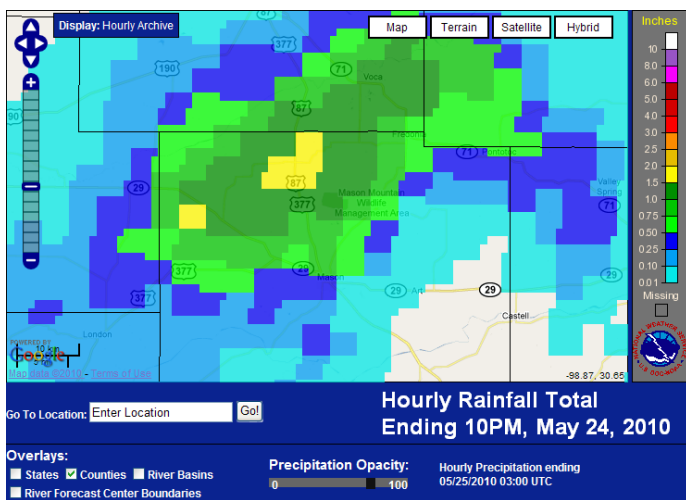


Figure 6. Hourly Rainfall Total, Ending at 10PM, 5/24/10

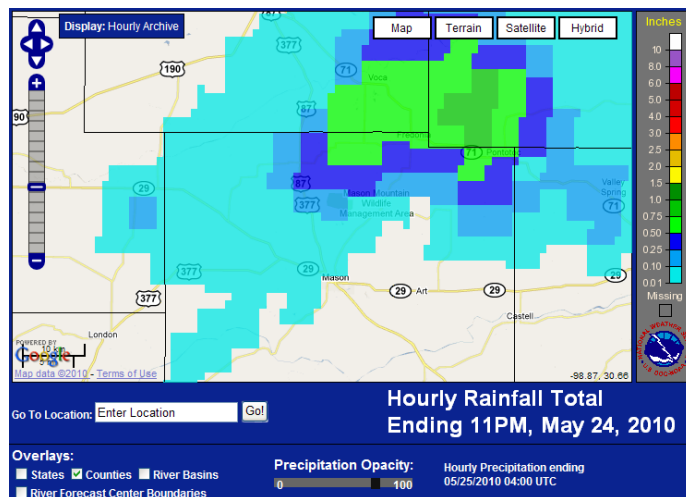


Figure 7. Hourly Rainfall Total, Ending at 11PM, 5/24/10

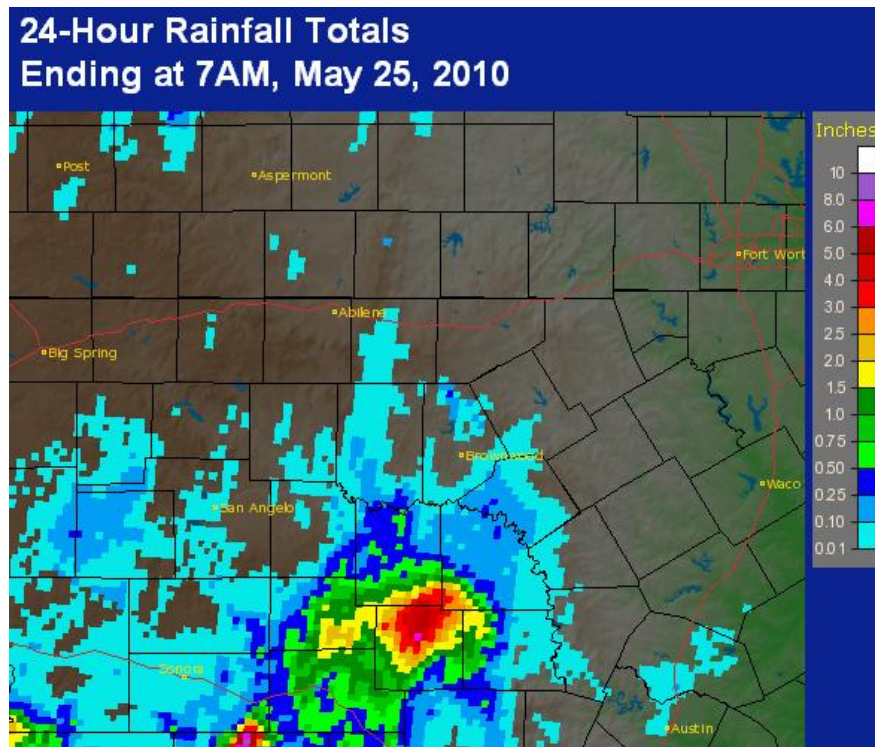


Figure 8. 24-Hour Rainfall Total, Ending at 7AM, May 25, 2010

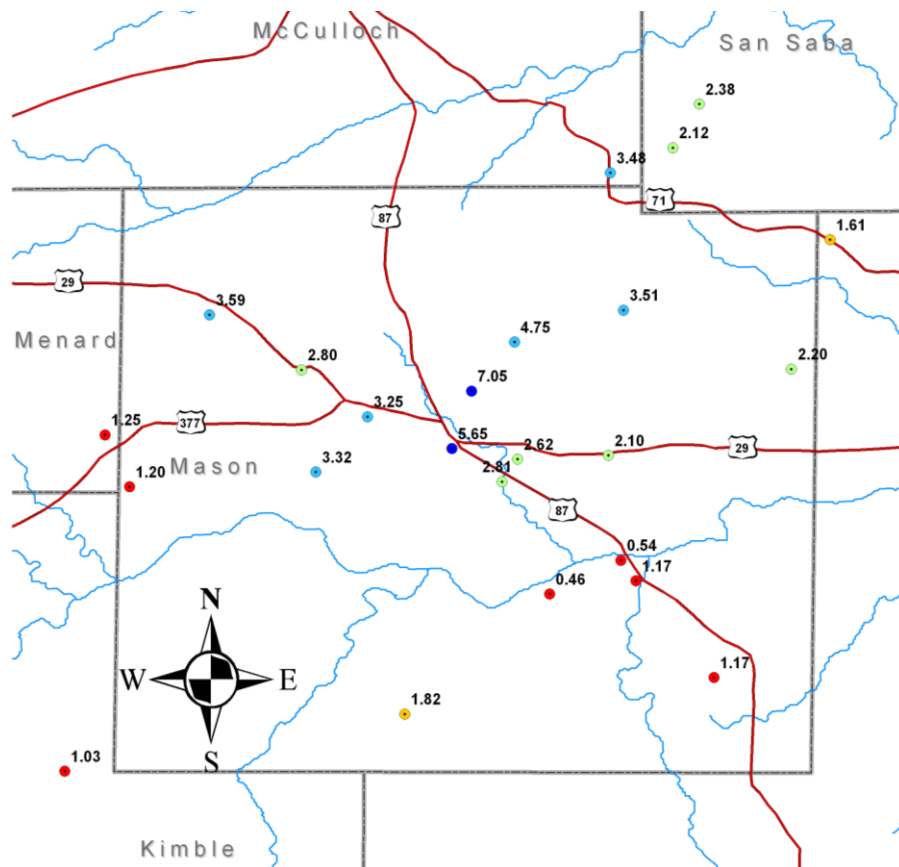


Figure 9. 24-Hour Rainfall Observations, ending at 7AM, 5/25/10



Figure 10. Rolling granite terrain east of Katemcy near FM 1222.



Figure 11. Rolling granite terrain east of Katemcy near FM 1222.



Figure 12. FM 1222 that was overtopped by floodwaters on May 24, 2010.



Figure 13. Downstream side of FM 1222, near Katemcy.



Figure 14. Home near Katemcy that received a couple of inches of water from flooding.